

## CLASSEN HOUSE

18-20 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE

The red brick bulk of 18-20 Pennsylvania Avenue fronts the north side of that street about 100' north of "The Forks" in Westminster. The house rests on high coursed fieldstone foundation and stretches itself along Pennsylvania Avenue a distance of 5 regularly spaced bays on its two full stories, or at least as regularly as possible on the ground floor. The entire house consists of three distinct, yet unified, sections: two of which are in the original house, viz., a 2½ story five-bay-by-two-bay front section and a full length shed roofed one bay deep rear section. Extending beyond this (both these two sections are in brick) is a full length two story shed roof two bay deep weatherboard section.

The significance of the Classen House is primarily architectural. The entire area around "The Forks" was thought of in the early era of Westminster as being a fairly undesirable place to live (according to local historian Miss Mary Shellman). Most homes along Pennsylvania Avenue, in fact, still today are fairly simple, at least in the area near "The Forks". The majority of the buildings in this area are 3 bays wide and are small shop-cum-residences. However, when Classen (or Glassen) bought this lot on March 14, 1870, for \$900, and decided to build a building for himself, he decided, apparently, to give the appearance of a large structure.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CARR 489  
PACI #0704815504

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Classen House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

18-20 Pennsylvania Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

7

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Carroll

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

—DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

—STRUCTURE

—SITE

—OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

—PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

—BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

—IN PROCESS

—BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

☒ OCCUPIED

—UNOCCUPIED

—WORK IN PROGRESS

**ACCESSIBLE**

☒ YES: RESTRICTED

—YES: UNRESTRICTED

—NO

**PRESENT USE**

—AGRICULTURE

—COMMERCIAL

—EDUCATIONAL

—ENTERTAINMENT

—GOVERNMENT

—INDUSTRIAL

—MILITARY

—MUSEUM

—PARK

☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

—RELIGIOUS

—SCIENTIFIC

—TRANSPORTATION

—OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Orville C. Fisher

Telephone #: 848-8658

STREET & NUMBER

18½ Pennsylvania Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21157

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Carroll County Office Building

Liber #: 518

Folio #: 170

STREET & NUMBER

Center Street

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION****CONDITION**

—EXCELLENT  
☒GOOD  
 —FAIR

—DETERIORATED  
 —RUINS  
 —UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

—UNALTERED  
☒ALTERED  
 (Porch)

**CHECK ONE**

☒ORIGINAL SITE  
 —MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

The red brick bulk of 18-20 Pennsylvania Avenue fronts the north side of that street about 100' north of "The Forks" in Westminster. The house rests on high coursed fieldstone foundation and stretches itself along Pennsylvania Avenue a distance of 5 regularly spaced bays on its two full stories, or at least as regularly as possible on the ground floor. The entire house consists of three distinct, yet unified, sections: two of which are in the original house, viz., a 2½ story five-bay-by-two-bay front section and a full length shed roofed one bay deep rear section. Extending beyond this (both these two sections are in brick) is a full length two story shed roof two bay deep weatherboard section.

The principal facade has five regularly spaced double-hung sash windows on the second floor; windows are paned two over two and have green louvered shutters, simple enframingent and white wooden sills. The ground story has its six bays spaced in the following manner WWDDWW. The windows are regularly aligned with these above and are similar in treatment, except they are slightly elongated. Central doors are recessed, simply enframed, and are now glass and aluminum storm doors. The ground story sits about 4' off the pavement and is sheltered by a high, 4 posted, flat roofed porch. Brick piers support the white wooden posts of the porch which in turn support a molded two part entablature. Simple balusters connect the piers.

The end walls of this brick section are identical to each other with one 2/2 window per floor towards the front of the building matched by similar windows towards the rear of the shed roofed section. Four-pane windows light the attic and flank the interior end chimneys. A thick, molded two part modillion entablature crowns the principal facade, projecting about two feet from the building. The entablature is supported by 6 pairs of elegantly scrolled brackets placed alternately with the windows; brackets have a wooden string course connecting their bases creating the illusion of a full entablature. The roof extends from the wall the same depth as the principal facade's entablature on the north and south ends, but it is there very thin and unbracketed.

The weatherboard section has two centrally placed 2/2 windows on the second floor of the rear and a hodge-podge of windows and doors on the ground floor, behind a hipped-roof screened-in one story porch. The north side of this weatherboard section has one central 2/2 window on each floor, while the south facade has two such windows per floor. All in all 18-20 Pennsylvania Avenue is a model two family house for

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

c. 1875

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the Classen House is primarily architectural. The entire area around "The Forks" was thought of in the early era of Westminster as being a fairly undesirable place to live (according to local historian Miss Mary Shellman). Most homes along Pennsylvania Avenue, in fact, still today are fairly simple, at least in the area near "The Forks". The majority of the buildings in this area are 3 bays wide and are small shop-cum-residences. However, when Classen (or Glassen) bought this lot on March 14, 1870, for \$900, and decided to build a building for himself, he decided, apparently, to give the appearance of a large structure. Thus, as noted in the answer to number 7, he, while building a two family dwelling, gave the pile the appearance of a single unit, a unit that would not look out of place in the more fashionable areas of town. He did this by hiding the two doors behind the deep porch, and by crowning the whole building with a very fine cornice which extends in simplified form around the two other exposed sides of the building. Further, he gave the building added bulk by abandoning the traditional L shape and by having all extensions of the gable roof of the principal section running the full five bay length.

The house stayed in the family until April 5, 1910 when Anna Classen sold the place to the G. W. Albaugh Real Estate and Brokerage Company for \$2157 (114/227), which acted as straw party, selling on the same day (on the next page), to Amelia Leppo for \$2400, making a slight profit. Edward L. Leppo and other heirs of Amelia sold the place to Ella and Horace Leppo on November 17, 1927 for \$7000 (149/524) and it stayed in that family until Janita Sensensy, executrix of Ella Leppo, sold to Donald C. Stimax on September 26, 1968 for \$5500 (443/411). Stimax sold the place to the present owner on August 4, 1972.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Consisting of 7920 square feet fronting Pennsylvania Avenue for 40' and being part of lot number 8 of B. S. Pigmans Addition to Westminster.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Christopher Weeks, Consultant

August, 1977

ORGANIZATION

Westminster Historical Sites Survey

DATE

STREET &amp; NUMBER

c/o City Hall, Public Works Department

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

Westminster in that it sets out to achieve, and does, the appearance of unity, of being a single family home.

50%



CARR-489

CLASSEN HOUSE

18-20 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Westminster.

E-21

2075





CARR-489